

USSN: 09/828,638
Atty. Docket No.: 2001B025
Amdt. dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-26 will be all the claims pending in the application.

New Claims 24-26 are supported by the description at the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at Section No. 8, page 12, of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the remainder of the pending claims are also allowable for the following reasons.

In the Office Action mailed March 24, 2004, the claims stand rejected as follows:

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 15-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,662,985 to Jensen, *et al.* ("Jensen") in view of U.S. Patent 5,804,301 to Curatolo and U.S. Patent 6,406,775 to Houde;

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 15-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen in view of Curatolo and U.S. Patent 5,883,193 to Karim; and

Claims 1-2, 12-14, 15-16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen over Houde and U.S. Patent 6,225,389 to Saint Victor.

In response to the Examiner's inquiry on page 2, section 2 of the Office Action, Applicant is submitting herewith a supplemental IDS, including a copy of the U.S. equivalent publication of the EP reference submitted previously in the 1449 filed November 10, 2003. Applicant is submitting this reference in that the reference discloses a printable film coated with a material consisting of polymer blend. Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention is both novel and nonobvious in view of this reference and solicits the Examiner's concurrence that the material of the reference is merely cumulative to information already of record.

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Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections.

First, the proposed combination of the prior art to arrive at the inventions of independent Claims 1, 15, and 20 is improper.

It is well-settled that the prior art references must be considered in their entirety, *i.e.*, as a whole, and portions therein that lead away from the claimed invention are evidence of nonobviousness. W.L. Gore & Assoc. v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Jensen is the primary reference in each of the rejections. Jensen, however, discloses coatings that are not crosslinked and not ethylenically unsaturated as coated. The iminated polymer disclosed in Jensen is made by the reaction of ethylenically unsaturated monomers to form a polymer with no unsaturation as coated on the substrate.

Thus, Jensen's disclosure of a coating that is not ethylenically unsaturated as coated teaches away from a modification thereto that would serve to crosslink its coating.

Referring to the combination of Jensen, Houde and Saint Victor, Applicant would like to direct Examiner's attention to the fact that Saint Victor discloses the use of epoxy acrylate to cure a screen coating that can be washed off with water. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to refer to Saint Victor to arrive at the claimed invention because Saint Victor is basically the opposite of the present invention. Whereas the present invention provides water-resistant coatings that are even resistant to hot water, the coatings of Saint Victor are designed to be removed easily with water.

Second, the proposed combination of the prior art does not meet each and every element of new Claims 24-26.

New Claims 24-26 include a characteristic feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the printable coating composition comprises the combination of (1) a crosslinked anionic acrylic copolymer, which has been cross-linked by a cross-linking agent to an extent sufficient to improve the resistance of the coating to isopropyl alcohol and/or hot water and (2) reactive acrylic double bonds provided by the presence of an epoxy acrylate in an amount sufficient to improve ink adhesion.

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The above feature recited in Claims 24-26 provides a unique advantage to the claimed invention. The presence of epoxy acrylate component improves ink adhesion inasmuch as it adds reactive acrylic double bonds to the coating composition. The reactive acrylic double bonds can react with double bonds in ink, especially those contained in UV-curable inks or lithographic inks. *See*, Paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification.

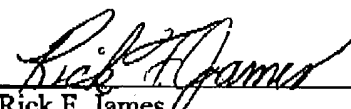
None of Jensen, Curatolo, Houde, Karim or Saint Victor discloses this feature of the invention, whether the references are considered alone or in combination. Furthermore, none of Jensen, Curatolo, Houde, Karim or Saint Victor provides the motivation necessary to render obvious this feature of the invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the outstanding §103 rejections.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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